(e) to (g) Government has established methods for recognising scientific merit and good work.

Manufacture of Main Battle Tanks by Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.

1756. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH :
SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received proposal from the Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. for manufacture of Main Battle Tanks (MBT), if so, whether it is being considered for approval;

(b) whether the proposal had earlier been submitted by the Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. also, if so, what are the constraints for not accepting their proposal; and

(c) whether Government have explored the export potential of MBT, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The decision regarding manufacture of Main Battle Tank will be taken keeping in view the overall techno-economic aspects of the offers received.

(c) No, Sir, as the tank is under advanced stages of development.

Curtailing the Research Work of Regional Research Laboratory, Bhuvaneswar

1757. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientists of the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhuvaneswar have alleged that the research work in the forest, marine and agricultural resources in the laboratory has been curtailed by the management;

(b) if so, what are the main allegations made and to what extent they have been found true; and

(c) what steps are being taken to continue the research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) A news item had appeared in some newspaper alleging that the research work in forest, marine and agricultural resources in the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar had been curtailed and throttled by the management though work had expanded a great deal in the sphere of minerals. The allegations are baseless. Research programmes of laboratories are formulated based on the recommendations of Research Council, Research Council of the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar has identified areas of excellence for the laboratory as under :

(i) Mineral beneficiation and agglomeration.

(ii) Extraction of non-ferrous metals.

(iii) Hydraulic transportation of minerals.

(iv) Plasma metallurgy.

The projects other than these are dovetailed to CSIR thrust area programmes or thrust area programme of other nodal laboratories.

(c) Research work in this area is continuing.

Application from Madhya Pradesh for setting up of Electronic Units

1758. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications from the Madhya Pradesh Government and the entrepreneurs from that state have been received for establishing manufacturing units

of electronic items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to expedite their finalisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 38 Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent and 54 Registrations have been issued for establishing manufacturing units of electronic items in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Action on the applications is taken as per the guidelines framed by the Ministry of Industry.

Coordination Agency in the field of Science and Technology

1759. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency to coordinate research and development efforts by Government public sector, universities and research institutions in the country in the field of science and technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism for such coordination ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) While there is no single agency to coordinate the R&D efforts in the field of Science and Technology in the country covering all efforts of the Government, public sector universities and research institutions, several mechanisms do exist such as : the Planning Commission which takes into account the work covered by the different agencies in determining the allocations for R&D efforts from plan to plan and also in the annual plans; organisations such as CSIR, ICMR, ICAR, coordinate the work of several laboratories and institutions under their respective councils; coordination of the work carried out in several universities is done through the University Grants Commission Departments like Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Environment, Department of Ocean Development etc. provide support for work at the various research institutions or public sector undertakings attached to their respective Departments.

Cadres Review for Group 'A' Services.

1760. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while three cadre reviews have been done for Group 'A' Services of Indian Revenue Service (IRS) for Central Engineering Services Class I (CES I) (Group A) only one Cadre Review has been done so far;

(b) the number of posts in each of Junior and Senior Administrative Grades, Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) and higher grades which were sanctioned in different cadre review of services refused to part (a) above;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is significant disparity in the promotional avenues of Group 'A' Officers belonging to Indian Railway Services of Engineers (IRSE), Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and Central Engineering Services Class I to the level of SAG and JAG stating the extent thereof; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to bring the career prospects of the Group 'A' Officers of CES I at par with other Services referred to in part (a) above and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI